

HEPATITIS B VACCINE

is recommended for
all infants and provides
lifelong protection
against disease.

Hepatitis B protection starts soon
after birth. Hepatitis B vaccine is
the best way to protect your child
against hepatitis B disease.

**Your baby should receive hepatitis B
vaccine at the following ages:**

- Birth
- 1-2 months
- 6-18 months



IMMUNIZE FOR A BETTER LIFE!

If you have questions, please call
your health care provider or the
Iowa Department of Public Health at
1-800-831-6293

For information about the
Iowa Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program:
<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/hepatitis.asp>
or call:

1-800-831-6293

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON
VACCINES AND DISEASES, PLEASE VISIT:**

www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization.asp
www.immunize.org • www.cdc.gov/vaccines
www.vaccine.chop.edu • www.aap.org



IDPH 7/13

IOWA
Immunization Program

HEPATITIS B IMMUNIZATION



IMMUNIZE FOR A BETTER LIFE!



What is HEPATITIS B?

Hepatitis B is a serious disease caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). HBV attacks the liver and can lead to death from liver failure and liver cancer. Hepatitis B can be spread from an infected mother to her child at birth. Most newborns who become infected with HBV do not get sick at first, but they have a 90 percent chance of developing lifelong infection. Hepatitis B is preventable with a very safe and effective vaccine. You can protect your baby by making sure hepatitis B vaccine is given soon after birth.

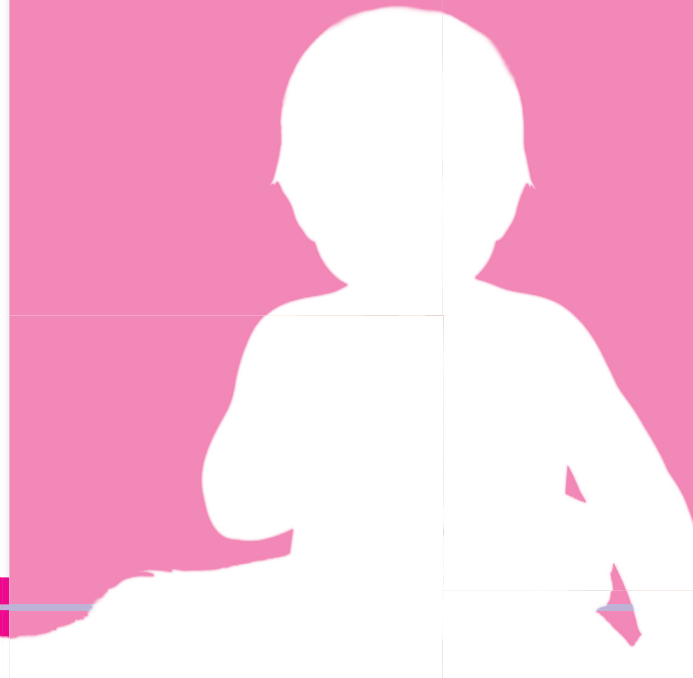
HOW DO PEOPLE GET HEPATITIS B?

HBV is found in blood and body fluids of people who have hepatitis B infection. HBV can be spread from mother to child through blood and body fluids at birth. There are many parts of the world where HBV is common. Individuals from the following countries are at increased risk of having hepatitis B, which can be spread to their infant at birth: China, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, Africa, the Amazon Basin (Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela) and parts of the Middle East. HBV can also be spread through sharing toothbrushes, razors, needles for tattoos and piercing, or through unprotected sex. Contact with even small amounts of infected blood can cause infection.

HBV is NOT spread by breastfeeding, coughing, sneezing, hugging or kissing.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE HBV?

All pregnant women should be tested during the first trimester of each pregnancy with a blood test to screen for HBV. This is an important step to prevent the spread of HBV to your baby at birth. Ask your health care provider for the results of your HBV test.



MAKE SURE YOUR BABY IS VACCINATED AT BIRTH

The “birth dose” is the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine given to babies right after birth. Giving your baby the birth dose helps protect them from HBV right from the start. The birth dose is a safety net for babies, giving them a head start on protection from hepatitis B. In newborns, hepatitis B infection can lead to chronic infection of the liver, resulting in a lifelong risk of liver damage and liver cancer. Three doses of hepatitis B vaccine will protect your baby against HBV. Hepatitis B vaccine is safe even for premature babies.

Your child’s health care provider may use a combination vaccine (containing several vaccines in one injection) to limit the number of shots your child will receive at each visit. When combination vaccines are used, your child may get 4 doses of hepatitis B vaccine: at birth, 2-month, 4-month and 6-month visits. Receiving 4 doses of hepatitis B vaccine is safe for your child.

BABIES BORN TO HBV-POSITIVE MOMS NEED EXTRA CARE TO PREVENT INFECTION

These babies need hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and additional testing at the following ages:

- **Birth:** Birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine AND a dose of HBIG within 12 hours of birth
- **1-2 months:** 2nd dose of HBV vaccine
- **6 months:** 3rd dose of HBV vaccine
- **9-12 months:** Have your child’s health care provider conduct blood tests to